

ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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PAKISTAN

19 Mar 2014: Anthrax kills 12 blue bulls

At least 12 blue bulls (Nilgai) kept at Tanda Dam Wildlife Park in Kohat city have died of anthrax infection while many more are infected, an official of the Wildlife Department told. He said there are around 35 blue bulls in the park. A team of doctors visited the site to investigate the cause of the mysterious deaths and confirmed that it was an anthrax attack. When the last epidemic was recorded in the same park, we recommended a biannual vaccination against the disease which we prepared in our labs at nominal charges, but no one paid heed to it," he said, adding a team of veterinary doctors visited the park but are yet to submit a report. [read more](#)

17 Mar 2014: Government to allow import of animals

The government has decided to lift a ban on import of live animals from countries with 'negligible risk' of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), official sources said. They said the Ministry of Commerce vetted the proposal to lift the ban in consultation with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, and it was felt that allowing import of live animals from 'low-risk countries' would benefit Pakistan's livestock industry because the country's importers would be able to source their animals from multiple countries and breeds. The lifting of the ban will bring the country's import regime in line with the guidelines set by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), according to the two ministries. [read more](#)

15 Mar 2014: 2.2 million livestock vaccinated in Tharparkar district

Sindh Fisheries and Livestock Minister has said that out of total 7.3 million livestock in Tharparkar district over 2.2 million have been vaccinated till date. In this regard, 16 mobile teams in Thar deputed by livestock department are working for the treatment of livestock. [read more](#)

SRI LANKA

16 Mar 2014: Foot and mouth disease under control

Foot and mouth disease which has spread to seven districts is under control and spread is declining. A locally produced vaccine is being used to control the disease, Director General of the Department of Animal Production and Health, told. "We have appointed two committees, one for national level review of the situation and appropriate action to be taken and the other committee to attend to individual cases where the veterinary surgeon in the area cannot handle the situation," he said. The disease has caused untold damage to the livestock industry. The disease which was initially reported in the North and North Central Provinces has spread to the Gampaha district and officials believe it spread through live animals being brought from Vavuniya. [read more](#)

16 Mar 2014: Human rabies cases declines

In the early 90's there were 100-150 human rabies deaths reported, but in 2013 the reported deaths have been brought down to 27. Dogs are the main reservoir for rabies in Sri Lanka. The following animals have been proved positive for rabies by laboratory diagnosis: dogs, cats, cows, goats, mongoose, pole cats, bandicoots, monkeys, horses, rock squirrels, jackals, civet cats and elephants. So far, house rats have not been proven positive for rabies in Sri Lanka. [read more](#)

OTHERS

18 Mar 2014: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – update

On 14 March 2014, the Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia announced an additional five laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 196 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 83 deaths. [read more](#)

17 Mar 2014: Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – update

On 14 March 2014, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of China notified WHO of two additional laboratory confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. The previous report of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus detection in live poultry exported from mainland China to Hong Kong SAR shows the potential for the virus to spread through movement of live poultry, at this time there is no indication that international spread of avian influenza A(H7N9) has occurred. [read more](#)

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